

Arden Election of the 2015 Board of Assessors

Don't forget to vote: Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in Arden on Oct 13.

Ballots must be returned by 7:30pm, **Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014.**

Ballots will be counted at the Buzz Ware Village Center. The public is invited to attend.

For questions about the election contact the Registration Committee at: registration@theardens.com

Candidates state their positions

Below are statements from candidates running for 7 seats on the Arden Board of Assessors.

TOM WHEELER I came here in 1995 because my wife woke up in a dream and said we have to move to Arden. I've been the treasurer of the Arden Craft Shop Museum, and the swim team, and temporarily for the Arden Club, as well as helping rebuild the Moonlight Theater, served the BWVC and the Civic committees, worked with the Shakespeare and the Ardensingers Gilds, and have been on the Board of the AB&L for 15 years. We love Arden. I will vote a continuation of the current system unless strong reason and considerable village sentiment are demonstrated for change. Thank you for your interest and support.

LARRY WALKER My principal concern is that the Village of Arden needs to hold a substantial Prudent Reserve. In my opinion, the amount in the Prudent Reserve in recent years has been too low for prudent fiscal emergency or unanticipated needs, and the targeted amount should be increased, even if it means higher Land Rents for a few years. Over the years previous Assessors Boards have chosen to lower the amount in the Prudent Reserve, instead of increasing Land Rents. I have served on previous Assessors Boards, and I am a former Town Budget Committee Chairman.

BILL THEIS was unable to respond by the Oct. 2 deadline.

WARREN ROSENKRANZ I have served on the Assessors for many years and in my tenure the Board has only raised the assessment to meet the School Tax increases that we have all endured. I have been adamant about keeping the Assessment rates fair for ALL leaseholders. I would appreciate a vote from you to help me continue serving our community without bias.

CHARLES ROBINSON Having frequently attended the Assessors' meetings over the years and having once served as an Assessor, I am aware of

the complicated and important issues facing the Board of Assessors. We must continue to study the principles and practices of land rent, to consider any fair modifications to the current system [and reject any unfair modifications], and to keep the community informed of the process by which land rent is assessed.

CLAY RIDINGS preferred not to make a statement.

LIZ RESKO I moved to Arden in early '90s. During that time I had an opportunity to chair the Budget Committee and chair the Audit Committee. Presently, I am serving as Town Secretary. I think it is an honor to participate in our town government by giving back. I believe the issues surrounding Assessors is an ongoing, complex process. I would find it challenging and educational. I welcome the opportunity to further serve my community.

GARY E. QUINTON I have lived in Arden for nine years, learning much about our community through personal contacts and public meetings. I believe the "community standard of living" approach makes sense for levying land rent. I also strongly believe that our community should carry a prudent reserve that is only necessary to handle uncertainty in "outside taxes" (those from New Castle County) and our own budget. As an assessor, I would continue to evaluate our historic ability to spend our budget with judicious thought to the contingency in our "rainy day fund," the Prudent Reserve. Since we settled our plans to manage the total reserve in 2014, I will bring forth some new ideas to manage our current overage in a robust fashion to the 2015 Assessor Board. As a Six Sigma (Statistics) Master Blackbelt with DuPont, I bring my analytical skills to the Board of Assessors, as I did in prior Land Rent Assessments. I continue to be active in Georgist activities and am a current member of the Arden Budget Committee.

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Arden Board of Assessors • Candidate Statements *continued*

JEFF POLITIS preferred not to make a statement.

DENIS O'REGAN I've been a leaseholders for 17 years. Tempus Fugit! I've served on Safety for 10 years, and served as Assessor on the last 10 Boards. During that time, I have come to understand and support the "Community Standard of Living" approach to Land Rent Assessment, and believe that Full Rental Value must be Fair Rental Value. I am also committed to maintaining a Prudent Reserve that is adequate, but not flush. I encourage leaseholders to attend Board meetings.

JOHN MARTIN I am honored to be a candidate to serve as a member of the Board of Assessors in Arden. I want to thank you for this opportunity and for your consideration of my candidacy in the upcoming election. While new to Arden itself, I am quite familiar with the work and theory of Henry George. I happen to teach him, among others, in an upper-level course I teach yearly at UD in American Political Thought. I would do my best to ensure his founding principles are upheld in any and all considerations regarding the tax responsibility entrusted to the Assessors. A 30-year career as an educator has, I think, helped me develop a number of skills that would be considered useful for serving in this position. I am open and tolerant of a wide spectrum of opinions and points of view. I work hard to listen to what others say, and mean. I try hard not to pre-judge matters. And, I like to think that I can work cooperatively with others.

JIM LAURINO I like Arden and I enjoy being a member of this community. I want to do my part in making it work well. I expect to enjoy learning more about Arden if I am elected. As qualifications I am good with numbers, fair minded, and a good listener.

DAVID GERBEC My name is David Gerbec. I have lived in Arden for 13 years, which is just long enough to begin to understand how this village works. I don't have a personal agenda and, if elected, I will approach my responsibilities as an Assessor with an open mind.

JOE DEL TUFO I've lived in Arden for 7 years and have served on the Board of Assessors for the last two. I've spent that time getting a deeper understanding of the core roles of Assessors,

including the importance of a healthy prudent reserve, the many factors that affect land rent, and the variables that can affect those issues. I consider myself open-minded but also believe that the collection of taxes should be done in a strategic manner so as not to either jeopardize budgets or overburden leaseholders.

BROOKE BOVARD I'm Brooke Bovard. I'm a native Ardenite and raising my family here, and I've had the honor of serving on the Board of Assessors for most of the last 10 years. I am also the founding mother, and first gildmistress, of the Georgist Gild. My leasehold is medium sized, and on Harvey Road.

This is my take on what's important in a member of the Board of Assessors. MOST important is a sense of perspective, and a willingness to get on with the business of governing. People have all kinds of notions about what method we should use to assess. They have all kinds of ways to weigh data, all sources for data (including plain imagination) and a wide variety of political or other agendas. That's how people work, and it's great in a debate society, or an academic setting. But the work the Assessors do impacts, directly, the families in this town. We need a Board of Assessors who understands that, who respects the needs of our neighbors to have an affordable, predictable, fairly administered assessment, so that ordinary people can plan their budgets and do what they need to. We have, over the years, had highly ideological assessors, assessors who served without ever signing the assessment, assessors who never came to meetings, and assessors who proposed an alternate assessment when the votes didn't go their way. Please send assessors who will work, reach a reasonable, real-world group product, and keep the town running, without a lot of drama and grandstanding. That's my priority.

Thank you to all the candidates for their willingness to serve the community.

Prepared by Cecilia Vore, chair, Arden Registration Committee
10/3/2014